GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1396
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
FAKE PASSPORT
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Passports are dime a doxen` appearing in the `Poineer` dated September 23, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the rackets in fake passports are more prevalent in many parts of the country in connivance with the officials of the passport offices;

(c) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to check the growth of fake passports in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): Passport Offices issue only valid passports on the basis of clear Police verification reports and after examining requisite documents. Whenever fake passports are detected/seized and forwarded to Ministry of External Affairs, these are immediately revoked. Whenever investigations establish any verifiable linkage between touts and employees of offices strict action is taken against passport officials.

(d): Improvements in the Security features of Indian Passports and Visa stickers to minimise tampering are undertaken on a continuing basis. The concerned law enforcement agencies also remain vigilant to curb such practices. All immigration staff also exercise vigilance in this regard and are given special training and equipment to scrutinise travel documents to ascertain their genuineness. New security features in the passports are introduced from time to time to make them tamper proof.